

THE ROMULUS ROM

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Ford may give 55 acres to Van B

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Ford Motor Land Services Corp., the real estate arm of Ford Motor Co., may donate some 55 acres to Van Buren Township if officials allow the auto company to develop a retail site on the northwest corner of Belleville and Tyler roads.

Ford approached the township about the vacant corner in 2001 and addressed members of the township planning commission Dec. 11. Ford wants to aggressively market the site and received approval for tree removal at the meeting.

"The only thing we're requesting tonight is the tree removal permit. We're just trying to move this thing forward at a little quicker pace so we can market the property," said Ed Wizner, development director for Ford Motor Land Services Corp.

"The opportunity is to develop a retail site that the community has certainly indicated they would like to see," said Bryce Kelley, township planning director. "They want to do something to make this land marketable and the first step is tree removal."

Kelley said the project would further

township development. "I feel there's benefit in the retail outlet that Ford is proposing."

The company plans to fell trees on a little less than 15 acres at the site.

"The goal is to remove vegetation to make the site attractive to potential retailers," Kelley explained.

"We think this site is now ready, according to the market," Wizner said. "It could be a very exciting project. The vision that we see is gazebos, landscaping and an amphitheater—a place where people could congregate. It will be a bit of a destination place."

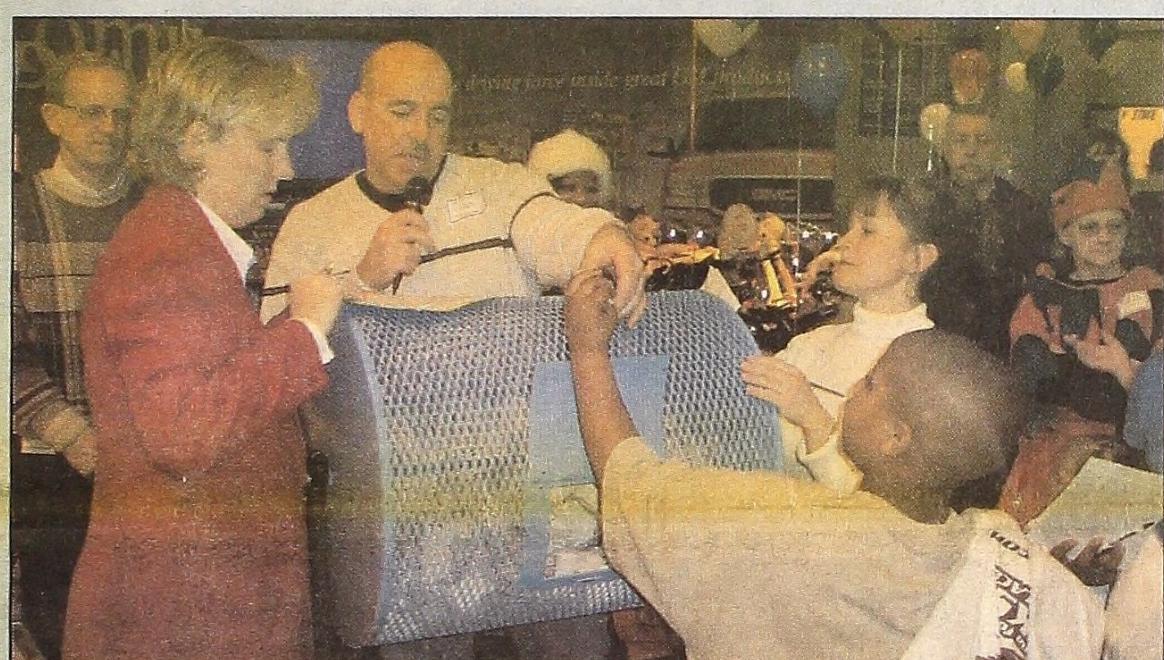
Trees removed
low-quality speci
and box elder, Wiz

"Ford has a new CEO, Bill Ford, who has a real commitment to the environment and we feel the same way," he said.

Wizner told the planning commission that Ford Motor Land Services does not have internal approval for the project yet but does have "full approval from Ford Motor Co. to approve the donation of the parkland," he said.

Retailers proposed for the site include

See Ford, page 3



General Motors Powertrain Romulus Engine employees purchased more than 300 bicycles and many toys in their fifth annual Toys for Tots program. A dedication ceremony, that included a drawing for door prizes, took place Tuesday at the plant. Photo by Pam Fleming

GM workers give \$40,000 to needy

Pam Fleming
Staff Writer

Employees at the General Motors Romulus Engine Plant opened their hearts and pockets again this year to help put smiles on the faces of local needy children.

More than 300 bicycles and many toys were purchased with the \$40,000 plus collected from UAW Local 163 and salaried employees at the GM plant. Donations also came from suppliers, local business-

es and dealerships. The items will be donated to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. More than 55 employees helped collect donations during the campaign.

"Through the generous donations of our employees, suppliers and dealerships, we are able to purchase more bikes and toys than ever before," said Plant Manager Steve Somers. "It truly will be a magical Christmas for a lot of deserving children."

"Many thanks to all of our UAW members for their generous contributions," said Rick O'Donnell, bargaining chairman of UAW Local 163. "The UAW has a longstanding tradition of helping to make a positive impact on people's lives."

The GM plant hosted the fifth annual Toys for Tots dedication ceremony Tuesday. Underprivileged children from the area had their photos taken with Santa Claus, sang

See Toys, page 3

Masked robbers strike local Airborne Express

Pam Fleming
Staff Writer

Two masked men armed with handguns entered the Romulus Airborne Express operation through an open door last Saturday, tying up four employees and stealing their personal property.

The robbers also stole the videotape in the company surveillance camera, according to Romulus police. No suspects

have been identified.

The armed robbery occurred in the early morning hours at the large warehouse at 6340 Middlebelt.

"One of the employees got a glimpse of the taller of the two just before he pulled the mask over his face," said Lt. John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department.

A department sketch artist met with the witness yesterday.

Detective Sgt. Jeff Lazarski

said that the case is rather unusual in that the robbers were extremely polite to their victims.

"Apparently, there was no indication that they wanted to hurt anybody, and they constantly apologized. They just wanted money. They told their victims, 'It's Christmastime and we have families, too,' while pressing a gun to the back of their heads," Lazarski said.

See Robbery, page 3

"Let's be progressive. Our thoughts have been that there's a lot of potential here," said Carmine Avantini, principal planner at LSL.

Brad Viergever, an associate broker with Signature Associates in Southfield, said that more warehouse and transportation services are needed. He said area developers sense an anti-trucking sentiment in the city because of the many regulations placed on truck traffic, and that because of this, many businesses are going elsewhere.

See Land, page 3

Romulus officials seek input from developers

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

When building a community, it's important for area developers and city administrators to work together.

In an effort to obtain feedback from local developers, the City of Romulus sponsored an interactive breakfast meeting last week to discuss possible amendments to city regulations for industrially zoned property.

The meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel was organized by the city Economic Development Department.

"Romulus is moving forward and I want us all to work as a team," said Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert.

Planning Director Cyndi Lyon and representatives from the city planning consultants, Langworthy, Strader & LeBlanc Associates, Inc., (LSL) outlined key considerations for zoning amendments.

These included updating land uses, reviewing lot coverage and building size requirements and looking at the compatibility of non-industrial uses.

They also discussed the creation of new industrial districts, clarification of present zones, and the establishment of an industrial planned development area, or PDA.

"Let's be progressive. Our thoughts have been that there's a lot of potential here," said Carmine Avantini, principal planner at LSL.

Romulus is moving forward and I want us all to work as a team.

Alan R. Lambert

Romulus Mayor

Bradley Strader of LSL said he believes the new master plan for the city needs a truck circulation plan or street hierarchy for truck use.

The city is also looking at a transition of land uses and the impact on adjacent areas. Other areas city planners are reviewing include landscaping and screening at industrial sites, outdoor storage, building and site design standards, the tax base and the impact of increased truck traffic and street improvements.

"The goal is to combine industrial developments with road improvements," Avantini said.

He noted that the city is not only concerned about the location of industrial land but also the extent of it.

Vince DiDomenico of D & G Building in Livonia said he was opposed to the current regulations on the maximum size of buildings and the number of overhead doors allowed. "The 40,000-square-foot maximum on buildings is too small," he said.

"Romulus needs to clean up its industrial areas," said Paul Burger of Burger, Easton & Company. "Some clients of ours have rejected certain areas just on a cursory look at the land, especially where there's so much product [land] elsewhere."

"We agree that some of the older buildings need to be up to speed," said Timothy Keyes, Romulus economic development department director.

County asks for help in controlling tree insects

Scott Spielman
Editor

Officials from the Council of Western Wayne (CWW) asked elected officials in each of the 18 municipalities for help Friday in containing the wide-spread devastation caused by Emerald Ash borers, tiny beetles that have turned portions of Wayne County into a virtual wasteland.

Helen Foster, a member of the Ash Tree subcommittee established by the CWW said that a sweeping public education effort is the next goal of the group.

Officials in Wayne County have been concerned with the effects of the beetle, which has been invading Emerald Ash trees during the past several years. They attack only mature trees, but Foster said there is no known treatment that is effective once the tiny green pests gain a toe-hold.

"The spread of the damage is just overwhelming," she told the officials. "If we can limit it to our area, it would be a great help."

Some municipalities, along with Wayne County crews, have already taken down some of the dead trees and that has caused a growing concern, according to Foster. She and others on the committee are afraid that people driving by these piles of wood would load up their trucks or trunks to take to cottages and use them as firewood. That would help spread the beetle to other areas of the state, she said. Southeastern Michigan has been quarantined in hopes of containing the bug, she said.

Everyone involved said that removing the trees would be an expensive process. Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey said a recently completed a survey of Ash trees in Livonia found 3,400 dying or dead trees. The city has started to take them down and paid \$300,000 to remove 1,000 trees this year.

Westland is the only other municipality

The spread of the damage is just overwhelming. If we can limit it to our area, it would be a great help.

Helen Foster

that has already completed a tree survey. Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said the city completed it along with a road study recently. They paid \$60,000 for the tree portion of the study, but it categorized every type of tree in city rights of way: Elm, Sycamore, Ash or otherwise. About \$20,000 of that cost was grant-funded, she said.

Westland has 3,600 Ash trees, she said. Some places, like the Surrey Heights subdivision constructed during the 1970s have been hit especially hard.

"We have some entire subdivisions that have just been devastated," she said. "A lot of these trees are in neighborhoods."

Westland Department of Public Services employees have started taking down some of the trees, but it will be an ongoing process because city crews have had a hard time keeping up, according to Cicirelli.

"The trees have been dying so quickly this past summer," she said.

It will be one of the many demands on an already tight budget for the coming year, she said. She said the budget process typically gets under way in January, when she meets with department heads to discuss their "wish lists" and see where cuts could be made.

Wayne County will remove the trees along Wayne County roads, but the bulk of the work – and the cost – would ultimately be born by Westland, she said.

"We have to deal with them," she said. "We can't just look the other way. When they die they become a safety issue."

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Plymouth roads to close Saturday

Motorists traveling through Plymouth Saturday should avoid the intersection of Ann Arbor Trail and Mill Street, which will be closed from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

A private plumbing crew will make repairs to a section of sewer line that lies beneath the roadway between Mill and the train tracks west of the street.

The city will also close the two south-

bound lanes on Mill Street and shift traffic into the left turn lane.

A detour for traffic on Ann Arbor Trail will route through Fairground to Fair Street and out onto Mill.

For more information, contact City Manager Paul Sincock at 734.453.1234, extension 203, or Horton Plumbing at 734.455.3332.

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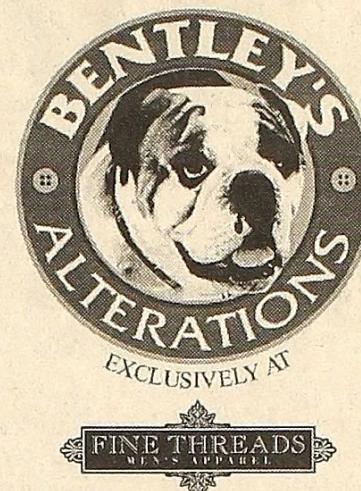
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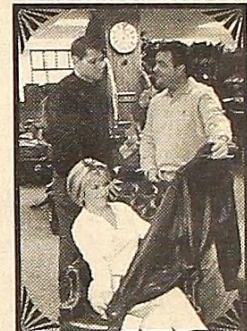
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Mark Gardner, owner of Gardner Financial Services in Northville, is another regular customer of Fine Threads. "He's one of my finest customers," Trudeau said. Gardner said he discovered the shop while walking down Main Street with a co-worker. "The downtown doesn't have many high-quality men's stores. It's convenient. You can walk by and always get something nice."



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Employees from Compuware came to the rescue of cancer victim Valerie Yates of Romulus this holiday season with donations of cash and gifts. At Romulus City Hall are, left to right, Crissy Bahorski and Kerryn Loftis of Compuware; Yates; her son, Jack, who recently had spinal surgery; Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert; and Yates' daughter, Desirea. Photo by Pam Fleming

Compuware employees aid cancer victim

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

Cancer is a disease that reaches many of us, either directly, through our friends and families, or in our imaginations.

Valerie Yates, a 42-year-old single mother of two from Romulus, is fighting the disease, and residents in the metropolitan Detroit area are coming to her aid, helping her make this Christmas a special one.

After losing her job as a detailer at Detroit Auto Auction because of her advanced illness and chemotherapy schedule, Yates went to Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert's office seeking assistance.

Yates said she wanted to give a happy holiday to her children, Desirea, 13, and Jack, 11. But without a job, and beset by big medical bills,

she didn't know how.

Wild Willie's Chill and Grill in Romulus hosted a fundraiser for Yates a few weeks ago, and last week, employees at Compuware Corp., donated more than \$1,200 in clothing, food, cash and toys to Yates and her family, according to Stephen M. Jones, director of public relations for the City of Romulus.

Jones' wife, Mary Kate, works at Compuware and is a breast cancer survivor. She shared Yates' story with her coworkers and they rallied to the cause, collecting cash donations, taking lunch hours and evenings to shop for the children and calling Yates to make sure they had the right clothing sizes.

The group even took a lunch hour to wrap the gifts for the family.

Compuware employees Kerryn Loftis and Crissy Bahorski presented the gifts to

Yates and her children last week at Romulus City Hall.

"I'm happy but a little embarrassed," Yates said as she tearfully accepted the gifts.

"We were looking to do something like this," Loftis said. "Most of the different departments do something for a family or children's organization during the holidays."

The two said it was nice to meet Yates and her children.

"We were looking forward to putting faces with names," Loftis said.

"We were very touched by the story," Bahorski added.

Yates said she wants to encourage more women to schedule regular mammograms.

"I only waited about a year and three months between mammograms and ended up with stage-four breast cancer," she said. "Many women don't realize how important an annual mammogram is."

light and heavy," he said.

Developers also said that the City of Romulus needs to look at them as clients rather than as applicants.

Chris Sierant of Burger Easton & Company said that regulations on the ratio of overhead doors to the square footage of buildings are a problem.

Larry Nemer of Nemer Property Group in Southfield said that planners should be more flexible on various uses of industrial property.

"The business world is changing. There are a lot of mixed uses needed today," Nemer said.

Property Trust in Southfield is opposed to the city creating a planned development area or PDA.

"PDAs are a nightmare for developers," he said. "They're a neat planning tool, but developers are scared to death of them because of the time involved in reaching approval."

Shea said he also thinks the parking requirements on new industrial developments are too high in Romulus.

Romulus currently has four industrial districts. Burger says that's too many.

"To have two would be ideal—

Land - Planners to amend industrial zoning regulations

FROM PAGE 1

"New construction guidelines are too stringent. The materials that the city requires are too costly," said Viergever of Signature Associates. "You're pricing yourself out of the market. When reviewing building requirements, you need to look at that."

Canton Township has an in-house approval process for industrial plans. Several members of the audience said that it is a big selling point with developers.

Kevin Shea of Liberty

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"To have two would be ideal—

Toys - Suppliers, dealerships join in fundraising effort

FROM PAGE 1

Christmas carols and selected a toy and bike of their choice.

Officer Michael Green, from the State of Michigan court, accepted the donations on behalf of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

Sgt. Bill Bazzi of the U.S.

Marine Corps Toys for Tots program was also present for the ceremony.

The Toys-R-Us store in Westland assisted GM Powertrain by assembling 100 bikes free of charge. GM also purchased safety helmets to go with every bike, tricycle and scooter donated to the program.

The GM Powertrain Romulus Engine Operations plant employs about 2,500 people. The UAW local 163 represents hourly workers. The plant, located on Ecorse Road between Wayne and Hannan Roads, is the second largest GM engine plant and produces V6 and V8 engines for General Motors trucks.

Teacher charged in sexual assault case

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

A 30-year-old former Romulus Middle School teacher has been charged with three counts of criminal sexual conduct following an investigation by the Romulus Police Department.

Ryan Wilson was arraigned Tuesday on the charges, according to Detective Sgt. Jeff Lazarski.

Wilson, who has three years teaching experience, has resigned his teaching position.

A police investigation prompted by a phone complaint from the mother of a 13-year-old girl

revealed that Wilson had formed an inappropriate relationship with the student and met with her outside the school grounds on at least three occasions, Lazarski said.

No misconduct occurred while inside the school building or during normal class hours, according to Lazarski.

The Romulus school administration fully cooperated with the police investigation, Lazarski said.

Wilson is scheduled for a preliminary examination on the charges at the 34th District Court at 9 a.m. Jan. 8, according to Joanna Ward, court administrator.

Ford - Automaker plans retail outlet

FROM PAGE 1

fashion, home improvement and book stores.

Restaurants, coffee shops and a bank could mix with large retailers, according to Wizner.

"We're working on a similar project in Allen Park," he said. "We'd like to get going on this so we can partner the development with retailers there. They're not interested in putting together a deal, however, until they can look at an actual site."

"We need to open it up from a visibility standpoint," said Dan McNulty of Atwell-Hicks, Inc., a civil engineering firm in Washington Township working with Ford.

Retailers interested in the corner include big-box operations like Lowe's and Kohl's.

"We have one 125,000-square-foot space allotted," Wizner said.

If all goes as planned, a park donation and development agreement will be developed between Ford and Van Buren Township, according to Wizner.

Robbery - Four employees surprised

FROM PAGE 1

The two men entered Airborne Express through one of the open bay doors at the operation, asked the first employee they encountered for all his money, then asked where the other employees were.

After showing the robbers to the office area, the other three employees were tied up and robbed at gunpoint.

"They used phone cords and computer cables to tie them up," Lazarski said.

The men stole a wallet with a credit card and \$40 cash from

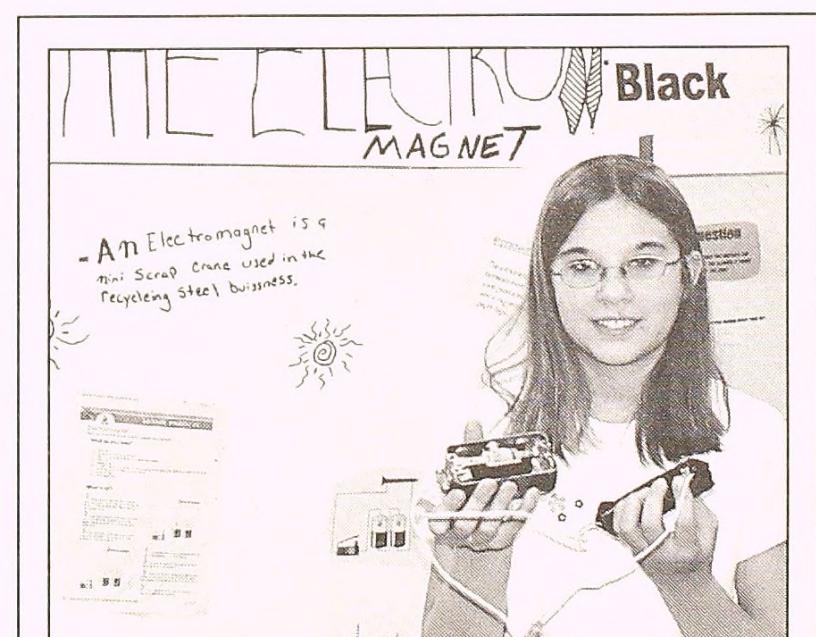
one victim. The second victim, who planned to go Christmas shopping after work, lost \$350 in cash, according to Lazarski.

The third victim lost \$15 and a cell phone. The fourth lost \$330 in cash. The perpetrators also took the petty cash box, which held an undisclosed amount of cash.

Lazarski said that each of the robbers wore gloves and masks.

"This is very unusual for suspects to be this polite while robbing people," he said.

Anyone with any information about the suspects can call Lazarski at 734-942-6857.



Science Night

Cory Elementary sixth-grader Nicole Siemaszko shows off her project on electromagnets at the Cory Elementary Science Night in Romulus. Students and parents were able to view the students' exhibits and try various experiments at the Ann Arbor hands-on science event.

County executive-elect promises cooperation

Scott Spielman
Editor

The lack of cooperation between the Wayne County executive and the elected officials of Western Wayne County may be a thing of the past.

Bob Ficano, who next month will take over as the chief executive of Wayne County, promised more cooperation and communication with the western suburbs when he takes office.

Ficano, who has served as the Wayne County Sheriff for 20 years, addressed the Conference of Western Wayne (CWW), a collection of representatives from 18 municipalities including Inkster, Canton Township, the Plymouths and the Northvilles as well as the City of Westland and Wayne.

"One of the things I've learned in the last 20 years is cooperation," he said. "I believe in the power of partnership."

Many members of the CWW have already tried to set up appointments with Ficano and his staff to address issues like road maintenance and environmental cleanups. Some of those questions would be better addressed next year, he said, when he and his staff had time to feel their way around their new offices.

Ficano said he wants to explore ways of helping budget-strapped communities. He said

he wants to form a cooperative purchasing partnerships that would give smaller communities the buying power of a large municipality and explore things like performance warranties on road projects to help keep costs down and ensure road improvements would last longer.

"I realize everyone is facing budget cuts," he said. "We're trying to see what services we can provide."

He also wants to encourage development along the I-94 corridor and the I-275 corridor.

One of the most visible improvements in county government is a plan that has been in the works for several years, though. Ficano said the county is close to opening a satellite office in the Kay Beard building in Westland. The building would house separate offices of the Wayne County clerk, the treasurer and the registrar of deeds, so that suburban residents could use those services without having to drive to downtown Detroit and pay for parking.

Beard, who was in the audience Friday, said renovations were under way in the building and an agreement had recently been signed by the clerk, treasurer and registrar.

"We've been working off and on to get this done," she said. "We couldn't get started until we got the agreement from the three

county-wide elected officials.

"We think this will be a wonderful addition for residents of Western Wayne County," she added. "We wanted to have those services available, and closer to home."

Ficano also said he wants to streamline county services that have drawn the ire of residents in the past. Updating and improving the web site is a part of that plan and increasing the number of county services residents can utilize without leaving their homes. A plan to modernize traffic signals throughout the county to help improve traffic flow and ease congestion is also on the books, according to Ficano, and would be more effective is approached collaboratively.

"If we are able to see what kind of common elements we have and come together as a group, it'll help the process," he said.

Officials in the mostly-Republican western portion of the county have long declared their frustration with the primarily Democratic government. Ficano said he wanted to look beyond that, and develop a better working relationship for the future.

"You're just as important as any other part of the county," he told the collection of 18 elected and appointed officials.

Beard said she'd already seen

signs of the increased communication and cooperation. Ficano met last week with the chairman of the Wayne County Commission and the commission as a whole.

"That was a watershed moment for Wayne County," she said.

"That's never happened before."

Canton to host 'Women's Day'

The Canton Township Leisure Services Department will post a "no boys allowed" sign on the front door next month when they present the first-ever Women's Day Celebration at the Summit on the Park.

"Our goal is to help women become aware of health issues that face each and every one of us, as well as offer exciting activities to try," said Recreation Specialist Amy Lockmondy.

According to Lockmondy, the event will focus on 18 topics, including stress and lifestyle management, weight loss tips for the working woman along with scrap booking and dance fitness.

Participants will also be able to take advantage of a wide variety of services including a massage, bone density screening, body fat testing and stress evaluation, said Lockmondy.

"We have a variety of exhibitors participating that will offer services to help women relax and enjoy life to the fullest," she said.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. Both residents and non-residents can register at the Summit until Jan. 6 for \$20.

For more information about the event call (734) 394-5498.

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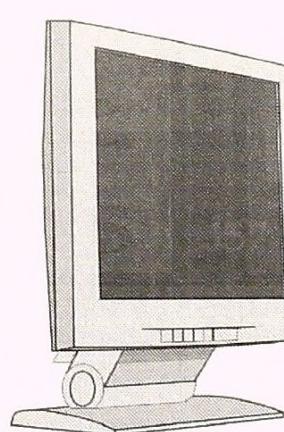
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Westland Downtown Development Authority may seek bonds

Scott Spielman
Editor

Westland Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board members may have to float a bond issue to pay for the first streetscape improvement project they have planned.

The DDA board members discussed the possibility last Thursday after representatives from the engineering firm Beckett and Raeder outlined a proposed project along Ford Road, from the Central City Parkway intersection east to Wayne Road.

The city received a \$399,000 Transportation Enhancement Authority (TEA-21) grant for the work, which would include intersection upgrades and additional landscaping and irrigation systems to help maintain it. The grant requires a local match of about \$400,000, which would be contributed by the DDA, according to Scott Veldhuis, economic development director for the city, but additional costs increase the total price tag of the project to about \$2.2 million.

"This is all really tentative," Veldhuis said. "There's a lot more discussion that needs to take place. It has to be discussed with the city council and that hasn't happened yet."

As proposed, the project would see the intersections of Ford and Central City Parkway and Ford and Wayne redeveloped with mast arm signals. The sidewalks would be replaced around the intersection with brick pavers in a design theme that would be reflected by brick screening walls constructed along property lines. Trees and other fauna would be planted to help decorate the intersections. The overall idea, according to Casey Jones of Beckett and Raeder, is to soften a harsh environment.

Each intersection would cost about \$600,000 to improve, he said. He also suggested improved irrigation systems be installed between the two and the street signs replaced on all the side streets. He said those are minimal projects that could have a large impact.

"There's not a lot of money left over after the intersection improvements," he

said. "The dollars aren't there to do a lot of screening of parking lots and that type of thing."

Ultimately, the plan for the area is similar to that seen along Plymouth Road in Livonia, with decorative streetlights and screening walls throughout.

A number of issues would have to be resolved first, however. The DDA has to get easements to work on the property and that could become a contentious issue to business owners who need the Ford Road frontage.

"I'm concerned with having someone fall out of compliance if they lose a few parking spots," said Arnold Shapiro, vice president of the DDA board. "My feeling is that the parking situation throughout that area is a serious one for business owners. They want that exposure and parking in the front, not the back."

Planning Director Bruce Thompson said other matters would have to be worked out, too. A dumpster at the strip mall at the corner of Ford Road and Central City Parkway doesn't really have an appropriate place – right now it is placed near the roadway, but if it were moved to the back of the lot it would be next to a residence.

"There are a number of zoning issues that we'll have to look at," Thompson said. "It's going to vary from situation to situation. It'll be a matter of sitting down with individuals and finding a way to work this out."

The DDA members also looked at expanding the project to include decorative mast arm streetlights at Central City Parkway and Wayne Road. A bond issue would be required to fund that, and that would require city council approval, even though the funds to repay it would come from the DDA budget and not city taxpayers, according to Veldhuis. That's because, although the DDA captures taxes and sets an individual budget, it still requires city council approval. Any bond issue would require the limited faith and credit of the city, too, Veldhuis said.

The DDA was formed in 1996, and the tax capture – and budget – has doubled since then, according to DDA Chairman

Kim Shunkweiler. There is also another major development scheduled for the DDA – a 22-acre Planned Unit Development (PUD) planned for Ford Road, across from city hall.

"I don't think we'll have a problem with repayment," Shunkweiler said.

The board members wanted more specifics on the cost estimates, and will meet again this week to discuss the bonding issue. If they decide to pursue that route, the plan would still need to go to the council for approval.

Jones said it was worth discussing since it's the first streetscape project in the DDA, and it would set the tone for future

improvement projects.

"If you get done with the intersection improvements and you don't do the mast arms, you're only half done," Veldhuis said.

He said he would start meeting with business owners in anticipation of the discussion with the city council.

"I envision getting into this with the business owners in January," he said. "It's a pretty tight timetable and we'll have to move quickly to get on track."

"Now may be the right time to do something," said Shunkweiler. "Our capture has gone up every year. With these improvements, hopefully it will go up even more."

Vacant property puzzles officials

Scott Spielman
Editor

One of the questions that needs to be answered as the Westland Downtown Development Authority (DDA) ponders its first streetscape project is what is happening at the former Marathon gas station at the corner of Ford and Wayne Roads.

Vacant for months, the dilapidated property now serves as merely a way for speedy drivers to circumvent the traffic light, according to Arnold Shapiro, vice-president of the DDA.

"It's an eyesore, and it's a major part of what we're talking about," he said.

He said that, while the business has been apparently vacant for the last four months, there isn't any type of sign that

says the business is closed, or what is going on there.

"It's one of the many properties whose owners we have to talk to in the next couple of weeks," said Planning Director Bruce Thompson.

Economic Director Scott Veldhuis said his attempts to locate the owner of the property have so far been unsuccessful. The last registered taxpayer is Charles Oke, but he hasn't been able to find a telephone listing for the man in Westland or any of the surrounding communities.

He's in the process of doing a title search on the land, and contacting the Marathon Co. to see if they can help, he said.

"I've sent out a few letters, but I haven't heard anything back," he said.

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On a roll Rotarians host county executive

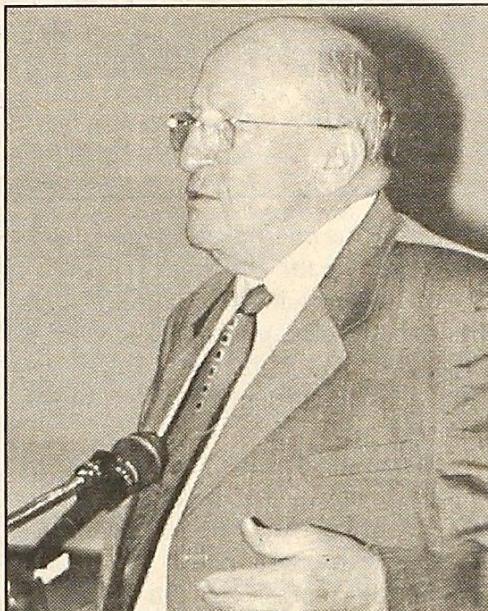
Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara was the featured speaker at the Plymouth Rotary Club last week.

McNamara, a Plymouth resident, talked to the club members about the current condition of county finances and some of the changes and growth during his 16 years as the county executive.

McNamara told the audience that the highly publicized current federal investigation of campaign practices was a surprise to him and to his staff members. "If the investigation is concluded as anticipated—they will find that there is nothing there," he said. He added that he did not anticipate any charges of illegalities as a result of the investigation.

McNamara was critical, however, of the campaign finance procedures presently in place for all involved. "It takes a great deal of money to get elected," he said, "and the system we have needs changed."

When the former mayor of Livonia was first elected as Wayne County executive, he faced a budget deficit of \$135 million. His 1987 solvency plan resulted in a



Outgoing Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara speaks to the members of the Plymouth Rotary Club during the luncheon meeting last week.

decade of consecutive balanced county budgets, he told the Rotary Club members.

His accomplishments, he told them, include the Wayne County state of the art airport, a new juvenile detention facility and new football and baseball stadiums.

McNamara opted not to seek re-election and former Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano will be inaugurated as county executive in January. (See related story, page 5.)

Santa to pose for pet photos

It's a common scene in early December—the food and water bowls are full, the litter box is clean, but Fido and Fluffy are sulking around the house, tails hanging, nary a purr or happy pant between them.

But take heart, pet-lovers. The problem is nothing that a jolly old elf can't fix.

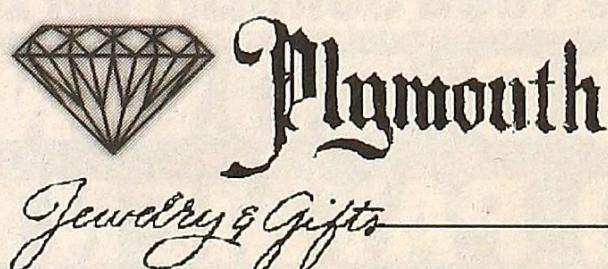
The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce invites the community to spread holiday cheer amongst the canine and feline mem-

bers of their families by posing for a photo with Santa at his house in downtown Plymouth.

Santa will open his door to cats, dogs and their owners from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday. Photos cost \$5.

Santa's house is located on Main Street, adjacent to Kellogg Park.

For more information, call the chamber office at 734-453-1540.



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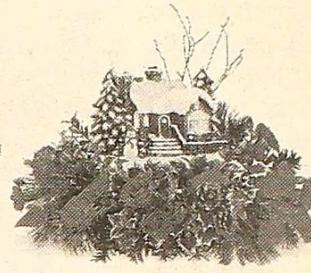
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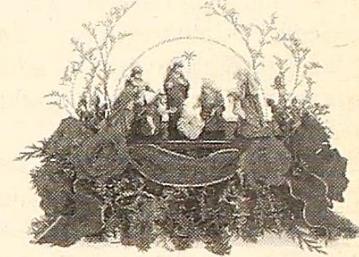
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OPINION

Yes, Virginia we will certainly miss you

The senior citizen community in Canton Township will lose a very positive force this month when Ginnie Hauck is, as she put it, forced into an early retirement at the end of the year.

Hauck, 55, is the manager of Canton Place and Sheldon Place, two senior citizen residences at the corner of Ford and Sheldon roads in Canton Township. She has looked out for the seniors there for 12 years and her only fault is apparently caring too much for the seniors that have fallen under her care.

Hauck has said that she believes she's being forced out of her job because she was vocal about the safety concerns of the newer of the two high-rise apartments, safety issues that forced her to find new homes for about 100 seniors when Sheldon Place was deemed unsafe because of structural damage. Since then she has cooperated fully with law enforcement groups that are looking into the alleged structural damages at the facility and would doubtlessly continue to offer that help in the ongoing investigation.

National Church Residences, which owns the two buildings has said that they would find a replacement for Hauck early next year. They might be able to find someone to follow her, but not to fully replace her. Hauck has received many honors during her time as manager of the facility up to and including the Athena Award, which celebrates the achievements of women in business. She'd be the first to tell anybody that she isn't working just for the accolades, though.

She's also started several programs for the seniors, including providing home-cooked lunches to residents and establishing the Helping Hands fund, which provides funds for seniors whose tight budget forces them to choose between food and medication.

Hauck was more than just an office manager at the senior residence. She was an active part of the community there, and the community outside the walls. She genuinely cared about her extended family of senior citizens and was a vocal advocate for their concerns. For the many residents there, it will probably be as difficult to believe as it is for Hauck herself.

Granted, it's unlikely that she will vanish from the Canton scene. We hope that she remains visible and active in the community, continues to work with and for senior citizens and other worthy groups and we hope she finds solace in the knowledge that her extended Canton family wishes her the best.

An eye to the future

In the tough economic climate municipalities are facing today, the proposed street improvements at the intersections of Ford and Wayne roads and Ford Road and Central City Parkway in Westland may be a tough sell.

It may be difficult for people to think of fancy brick sidewalks, mast-arm streetlights and eye-catching brick retaining walls at a time when cities and townships are looking for ways to reduce spending. After all, the city currently faces so many economic challenges they were forced to cut services like fall leaf collection this year, and may have to cut even deeper next year.

We think the Westland Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board members should pursue the project, though, and the city council should approve it.

It's the first major improvement project proposed by the 6-year-old DDA District in Westland and whether it is done well or not-so-well, it will become the standard by which all further streetscape improve-

See Project, page 8

JOURNAL

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HMM...
WHAT AM I FORGETTING?



An 'arresting' view of Christmas

Every year about this time, I go on a sort of internal 'vision quest' to try to find the holiday spirit.

Some years it's a little easier than others. I see the first few flakes of snow, hear the first melodic chiming of a Salvation Army bell ringer or see the Goodfellows braving the busy streets and I'm immediately struck with the desire to over extend my credit cards and buy something for everyone I know.

Lately I've had the added excitement of watching my son, Henry, discover Christmas, too. He slept through the first one (he was only three weeks old) and screamed every time he saw Santa last year, but this year he shows the excitement that most kids show about the upcoming holiday season. He even sat still through the entire viewing of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Even with his excitement and the early snowfall and the impending closing date on my first house, however, I've had a little difficulty finding the holiday spirit this year.

It took a Sunday night assignment at Meijer's in Northville to truly get me into the holiday mood.

The Northville Township Police Department showed up in force to help out and shop with some children. It was all on a volunteer basis, and 27 officers showed up for the event, which was funded through the police officer's union, the Meijer's store and the Meijer's employee union and organized through Community Liaison Officer Samantha Bowlin and the Northville Civic Concern. The three groups donated \$2,700 to make sure the kids could put something under the tree for their family members and loved ones.

The shopping spree started out with a dinner donated by Buca di Beppo. From there the officers were teamed up with a child or family and they strolled through the store, checking out their Christmas lists, and got to know the children. They asked questions about their family life, their friends and their school-



by Scott Spielman

work as they tried to find the best gifts to find for their family members.

There may have been a temptation to run through the store, knock items off quickly, and get on with the rest of their weekend but they took their time with the kids to make sure it was a positive event.

It's not the only example of groups working together to help the less fortunate. The UAW local 845, for one, has been doing a similar program for years.

But it was nice to see the police officers out making a positive impact, and following through on their goals to open lines of communication with the public. It also worked well for the Plymouth Township Police Department, who set up miniature stations at Kroger's last week and Bush's Marketplace to help bridge that communication gap.

It's the kind of thing that will foster a holiday spirit at any time of year.



by Russ Franzen

Some special Christmas carols of joy

On a mid-December evening, the streets of downtown Plymouth were alive with activity. Shoppers, their arms sagging under the weight of their shopping bags, paid no attention to the strange addition to the Kellogg Park nativity scene. Unlike every other crèche ever made, this one included a little pink pig. Wearing a Santa hat.

"Buford, get back on the sidewalk," Mary whispered loudly enough for him to hear. "You can't be on stage right now."

"Union rules," the cow said, nodding his head.

Buford, who just wanted to play, turned and walked sadly down the sidewalk. The music of the season filled the air and the little pig could not remain sad. He trotted toward the sound of the music, the white ball on top of his cap bouncing with each

step. The carolers on the corner were on the last verse of their song, thankfully, as Buford joined in, his loud, high-pitched voice drowning out the others.

"Hark the Herald Angels sing/You won't see this on Larry King! /Pizza pie with sausage mild/On Christmas Day for every child!"

A singer gave Buford a stern look.

"But I like to sing Chris-mus songs!" he said to her. "They make me feel good."

"Ho! Ho! Ho! That's why everyone sings them!"

Buford turned. Santa Claus was standing beside him.

"I thought you were still on duty," Buford said.

"With all the kiddies sitting on my lap, my legs will fall asleep if I don't get up and take a step or two," replied the jolly old elf.

"If Christmas songs make us feel so good," Buford asked, "Why don't we sing them all of the time?"

"Christmas is a very special time of year," Santa explained, "so Christmas music should be special. When the Baby Jesus was born 2,000 years ago, it was so important that the angels sang about it then and people sang about it ever since."

"But the Baby Jesus comes to Plymouth every Chris-mus-time. In fact," Buford said, pointing his snout toward the other end of the park, "he is over there right now."

"That is not the real Baby Jesus," Santa explained. "He comes here every year so we do

See Tail, page 8

Letters

Veteran defends benefit administration

To the editor:

I think someone is giving the V.A. a bad rap.

I've been a veteran since the Vietnam War and I never used my benefits until I got sick and was put out of a job of over 30 years. Because I'm not yet 65 years of age, when I applied for Social Security disabili-

ty, I couldn't receive Medicare or Medicaid. I applied for my V.A. benefits and had no trouble whatsoever getting them.

ince when has any government agency done anything overnight, including starting a war?

Samuel Hall,
Inkster

Project

FROM PAGE 7

ment projects are judged. A first-rate, classy project will make successive attempts to gather easements, coerce business owners and mollify the public much easier. It will help increase tax values within the DDA district, which will generate more funds to pay for successive projects.

At about \$2.4 million, it's a pricey plan to swallow, but the funds won't come out of taxpayer pockets. About \$339,000 would come from the state and the remainder would come from the DDA, in the form of repayments on a seven-year bond issue.

Since Downtown Development Authorities don't receive any money from

the state in the form of state shared revenue - their general fund balances stem from taxes captured within the district - they should remain solvent during a time when many municipalities are scrambling for funds. That, coupled with the historically low interest rates, make it an ideal time for DDA authorities to attempt building projects.

Streetscape improvements are among the most popular forms of economic revitalization projects that DDAs can undertake. In neighboring communities, such projects have helped turn around the cities of Plymouth, Northville and Livonia. Now the Westland DDA is on the brink of providing a much-needed aesthetic upgrade to a portion of the Ford Road corridor and we say it is time to look ahead, not back.

singing back there," Santa said. The tone told Buford that maybe he should not have sung the liverwurst song. But Santa was not angry at the little pig with a heart of gold. He knew his friend did not know the words to the songs and just sang the first words that came into his head. Like a Slam Poet. Or, in this case, a Ham Poet.

"I thought you were going to yell at me for singing too loudly."

"Ho, Ho, Ho! No, No, No!" Santa laughed. "Christmas is a joyful time and people use songs to express their joy. You, uh, gave a lot of joy tonight."

Buford grinned.

"You might want to learn the real words to those songs, though," he said. "That would make it more fun for everyone."

Down the street, Buford saw another roving band of carolers.

"Bye bye," he squealed. "See you tomorrow!"

He ran toward the carolers and, he was heard singing along as he ran out of sight.

"We wish you a merry Christmas/We know that you really miss us/So come over here and kiss us/And have a happy New Year!"

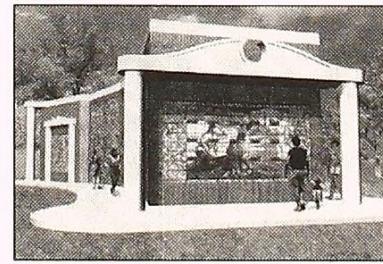
* * *

(In my Nov. 21 column, I mistakenly wrote that the milk at the Shetler Family Dairy in Kalkaska was unpasteurized. I apologize for that error. The milk is pasteurized, but not homogenized, so the cream rises to the top.)

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Santa's special workshop

Santa decided he's definitely going to be doing some remodeling this year and suggests other homeowners do the same. His decision was prompted by new statistics from the Department of Commerce that show that 100 percent of remodeling a kitchen or bath can be recovered in increased home value. According to Stella, that's an 80 to 95 percent cost vs. value ratio of costs of remodeling recouped by homeowners and they get to enjoy the convenience and beauty of the remodeling work. Remodeling is one of the few products or services that actually yields some kind of return added value to your home, Santa said. Stella Contracting specializes in all types of home remodeling and is a licensed, fully insured contractor.



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Obituaries

GRIMES, David Lee

David Lee Grimes, 51, of Inkster died Nov. 6. He is survived by his wife, Edith; daughters, Nellene, Cynthia and Edith; sons, David, Curtis, Cornell and Willie, and 11 grandchildren.

Services were at Penn Funeral Home with the Rev. Terry Hister officiating.

Interment was in Elmwood Cemetery in Selma, AL.

BUNDON, Andrea

Andrea "Drea" Bundon, 25, died Dec. 1 following an automobile accident in Grand Rapids.

Miss Bundon was a graduate student at Grand Valley State University where she was pursuing her Master's Degree in education.

Among her survivors are her parents, Link and Natalie Bundon of Wayne; a brother, Thaddeus, also of Wayne; her grandmother, Amelia Mendonca; a niece Brytine, and two nephews, Tyler and Troy.

Miss Bundon was a graduate of John Glenn High School and Michigan State University. She was a former contestant for the Miss Wayne title and was active in Rainbow Girls and Junior Civitans.

Funeral services were at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne with Father Jack Baker officiating.

Interment was at Knollwood Cemetery.

YOUNG, Phillip David

Phillip David Young, 33, formerly of Belleville, died Dec. 2.

Among his survivors are his parents Frederick Eison and Sharon Kay (Gilbreath) Young of Belleville; sisters, Jennifer Lynn (Marc) Delaney and Susan Ann Young, both of Belleville.

Mr. Young was a member of the Northwest Alano Club of Westland and New Life Metro Ministries in New Boston.

Services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Pastor James Southward officiating.

Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

REAUME, Doris H.

Doris H. Reaume, 72, of Garden City died Dec. 6.

She is survived by her children, Linda (Ferien) Putman, Susan White, Jackie (Robert) Page, Keith Reaume, Vickie (Earl) Trotter; brothers, Oraie Moore, Jr., Carl Moore Thomas Moore, the Rev. Gary Moore, Dennis Moore and William Moore; a sister, Gloria Teale; 12 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services were at the Uht Funeral Home with the Rev. Gary Moore officiating.

Interment was in Southern Michigan Services of Livonia.

BRAKE, William Miles

William Miles Brake, 69, of Belleville, died Dec. 2 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Among his survivors are his children, Patricia L. (Gregory) Jamison of Belleville, Vera (Wayne) Hazard of Poulsbo, WA, William (Angela) Brake of Jonesville and Michael Brake of Belleville; a sister, Dorothy Hancock of CA; seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Brake served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and was a member of the VFW Romulus Post, the Belleville Moose Lodge, the Belleville Myrtle Lodge and F & AM and the Shriners.

Services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert J. White officiating.

HOLBROOK, Mary Elizabeth

Mary Elizabeth Holbrook, 78, of Belleville died Dec. 4 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor.

Among her survivors are her sisters, June M. Merchant of Rockport, MS and Margaret Ann Cox of Bangor, MA.; several nieces and nephews, and two dear friends, Eva Hawkins and Sue Harnisch, both of Belleville.

As a young girl, Mrs. Holbrook attended the Clark School for the Deaf in MA. She was active with the Order of the Eastern Star and a member of the board of directors of the Michigan Rainbow for Girls.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Dr. John N. Grenfell III officiating.

Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

GREEN, Jessie M.

Jessie M. Green, 85, of Romulus died Dec. 7.

Among her survivors are a brother, Raymond C. "Zeke" Green of New Boston and sisters; Mrs. Frank (Gladys L.) Bordt of Romulus; Mrs. Marian L. Krause of Belleville; Mrs. Harold (Cecil M.) Harris of Allen Park; Mrs. Melvin (Frances F.) Reek of Adrian; Mrs. Elbert (Laura M.) Davis of Flat Rock; Mrs. Helen L. Kowski of Belleville; Mrs. Gordon (Mildred A.) Miles of Grosse Ile and Mrs. Dorothy E. Jones of Sarasota, FL.

Services were at the Crane Funeral Home with the Rev. Evans Bentley of First United Methodist Church in Flat Rock officiating.

Interment was in Mallett Cemetery in Huron Township.

POLLOCK, Nadine M.

Nadine M. "Mouse" Pollock, 48, of Belleville, died Dec. at home.

She is survived by her fiancé, Robert R. Wasolowski of Belleville; a son, Kenneth Robert Lechleitner of Twinlake, WI; a daughter, Anglea (Tony) Muth of Janesville, WI; a brother, Rother (Judy) Lechleitner of Janesville, WI; a sister Margaret Zwiefel of Janesville, and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were Dec. 6 at David C. Brown Funeral Home with pastor Robert J. White officiating.

JOHNSON, Dale Richard

Dale Richard Johnson, 51, of Westland died Dec. 14.

Among his survivors are his sons, David Johnson and Daniel (Shel) Johnson; a daughter, Dana Johnson; his mother, Joyce Schlehuber; his father, Emil Johnson, two brothers, Richard and Robert; a sister, Susan Pounds, and a grandson, Michael Johnson.

Services were at Uht Funeral Home in Westland with the Rev. Bob McDonald officiating.

WASHELEWSKI, Barbara Ruth

Barbara Ruth Washelewski, 66, of Romulus died Dec. 9.

She is survived by her sons, Lawrence A. Washelewski of Oak Park, Jeffrey C. Washelewski of Taylor and Paul Washelewski of Brownstown Township; a daughter, Mrs. Larry (Brenda S.) Corman of Taylor; brothers, John Osborne of Dearborn Heights, Fred T. Osborne of Lincoln Park, Carl Osborne of Carleton, Roy Osborne of Gunnersville AL and Bill Osborne of Portsmouth, OH; sisters, Mrs. Frank (Margaret) Dalip of Louisville, KY and Mrs. Ron (Thelma) Nickell of Woodhaven; 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Services were at St. Stephens Catholic Church with Father Alexander Wytrwal officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home.

HARDING, Sagasta

Sagasta Harding, 94, of Romulus died Dec. 8 in Ann Arbor.

Mr. Harding is survived by a daughter-in-law, Alice Gilbert of Romulus; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren, and a sister, Marie.

Services were at Parks Memorial Church with the Rev. Phillips officiating.

Interment was in Romulus Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home.

PARSONS, Ellis M.

Ellis M. Parsons, 94, died Dec. 14 in Romulus.

Among his survivors are his children; Charles (Doris) Parsons of Detroit, Harold (Leona) Parsons of Inkster; Ellis (Saundra) Parsons of Belleville; Parille Dupree of Romulus, Bettye Martin of Romulus, Marjorie Jeffries of Westland, Christine Anderson of Romulus, Shirley Miles of Ann Arbor, Barbara Myers of Ann Arbor, and Sharon (John) Calloway of Belleville; a sister, Bertrice (Paul) Smith of Detroit, 22 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

Services were at First Baptist Church in Romulus with the Rev. Charles P. Wollridge officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home.

HOLLINS, Amos

Amos Hollins, 80, of Inkster, died Nov. 12.

Mr. Hollins was a veteran of WWII.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Grace; children, Amos Jr., Willie, Brenda, Reynard, Shirley and Wayne; six grandchildren, and nine brothers and sisters.

Services were at Penn Funeral Home with the Rev. Terrance McClain officiating.

BOOKER, James J.

James J. Booker, 72, of Taylor, died Nov. 16.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home. Services were at Greater Grace Temple in Taylor.

Interment was at Detroit Memorial Park West in Redford.

BAECHEM, Annie M.

Annie M. Baechem, 63, of Inkster, died Nov. 6.

She is survived by her sons, Harold and Cedric and a brother, Edmond.

Services were at the Penn Funeral Home with John L. Tucker officiating.

PENN, Robert Wyndell

Robert Wyndell Penn, 40, died Nov. 7.

Among his survivors are his father Robert (Bernadine) Penn; a sister, Terri; cousins, Deidre, James, Christopher, Joann and Yolanda.

Services were at Gethsemane Baptist Church with the Rev. John Duckworth officiating.

Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Penn Funeral Home.

BEDARD, Blanche M.

Blanche M. Bedard, of Westland, died Dec. 5.

Among her survivors are her daughter Dana Pottion; a grandson Ray Purusse; her fiancé, James Wilson; her mother, Margarette Wise; a brother, Richard Wise, and sisters, Mary McCamey, Betty Honeyman, Donna Franklin and Katherine Watt.

Services were at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne with Father Jack Baker officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home.

COX, Marguerite Eulene

Marguerite Eulene Cox, 70, of Van Buren Township, died Dec. 8.

She is survived by her husband, Donald F. Cox; sons, Calvin Cox, Steven (June) Cox, Michael (Trudy) Cox, Joseph (Kimberly) Cox, Thomas Cox and Brian Cox; a brother, William Russell; 15 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were at Uht Funeral Home with the Rev. Charles Ozment.

Interment was in Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia.

CITY OF INKSTER INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Inkster will receive sealed bids at the OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan until 11:00 A.M. Tuesday, January 21, 2003 at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read for the following:

POLICE DEPARTMENT MOBILE COMPUTER HARDWARE

Specifications will be available after 3:00p.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2003 in the Purchasing Department at 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan 48141. Bidders must attend the conference on Friday, January 10, 2003 at 11:00 A.M. for any information or questions regarding specifications.

THE CITY OF INKSTER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO AWARD SPLIT BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY IRREGULARITIES AND ACCEPT ANY BID IT MAY DEEM TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY.

Kimberly Turner
City Clerk
2121 Inkster Road Inkster, Michigan 48141

Publish: December 19, 2002

CITY OF INKSTER INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Inkster will receive sealed bids at the OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan until 11:00 A.M. Friday, January 3, 2003 at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read for the following:

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

Specifications and bid forms are available after 3:00 p.m., December 19, 2002 in the Purchasing Department, 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan 48141. Questions regarding the specifications should be directed to Jerome Bivins at (313) 563-2821, Monday through Friday 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

THE CITY OF INKSTER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO AWARD SPLIT BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY IRREGULARITIES AND ACCEPT ANY BID IT MAY DEEM TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY.

Kimberly Turner
City Clerk
2121 Inkster Road
Inkster, Michigan 48141

Publish: December 19, 2002

CITY OF INKSTER INVITATION FOR BIDS

THE CITY OF INKSTER will receive bids at the OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan 48141 until 11:00 A.M. Monday, January 6, 2003 at which time and place bids will be opened and read for the following:

REPAIR & IMPROVE CELLBLOCK PLUMBING

Specifications may be picked up after 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 19, 2002 from the Purchasing Department 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan 48141. Companies are required to come out by appointment only and inspect the current plumbing prior to submitting their bids. Call Sgt. Thomas Diaz at (313) 563-9850 ext# 115 Monday - Friday 8: 00 a.m. to 4: 00 p. m. to schedule an appointment.

THE CITY OF INKSTER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO AWARD SPLIT BIDS, AND TO WAIVE ANY IRREGULARITIES OR ACCEPT ANY BID IT MAY DEEM TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY OF INKSTER.

Kimberly Turner
Inkster City Clerk
2121 Inkster Road
Inkster, Michigan 48141

Publish: December 19, 2002

Steppin' out

Young dancers entertain seniors

Several young girls are dancing and singing their way into the hearts of residents throughout the Canton community.

Known as the Blazer Babes, the 7 to 15-year-old girls have been performing their holiday show in senior citizen homes this season.

"The goal of this group is not only give the girls a chance to perform," said their coach Justine Blazer, co-owner of Blazer Dance Studio. "The students are also providing a community service. They are providing holiday cheer to the residents of this community."

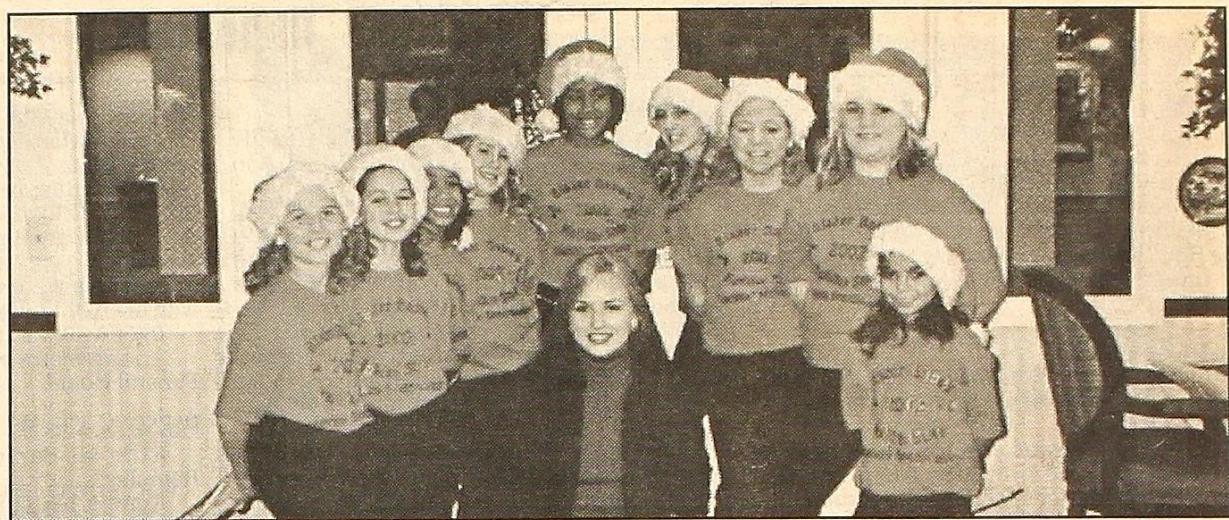
The Blazer Babes have performed at Waltonwood and plan to perform at Canton Place, said Blazer. The group also had a small production in the

Plymouth Fall Festival in September.

"The group started about a year ago and was rather small," said Blazer. "Since then, it has grown and we are now looking for other opportunities to perform for the public."

The group is currently made up of 10 girls who are willing to commit the time and effort it takes to be a Blazer babe, said Blazer. Each student must take a 30-minute vocal lesson each week along with a 45-minute dance class.

"For most of these girls this is no big deal because they are already taking multiple dance lessons during the week," said Blazer. "These are girls that really want to be performers and know what it takes to get there."



The Blazer Babes (from left to right) include Amanda Bednarz, Alexis Hotz, Alexandra Mayo, Danielle Gomrick, Kristianna Mayo, Corrie Olsen, Allison Kirby, Brittany Schmidt, Morgan Rice and Kacie Burns (not pictured) all working under the direction of Justine Blazer (center).

Blazer has been dancing since she was 3 years old and singing since she was 5. It was after a summer working in stage shows at Cedar Point that the idea of Blazer Babes occurred to her; she said.

According to Blazer, being the instructor of the Blazer Babes is

an exciting opportunity.

"This give me the chance to be the director instead of the student," she said. "I pay attention to the way that I was taught and then pass that along to my students."

Once the holiday season is complete, the girls will begin

working on their next production, said Blazer. They will prepare a 1950 style show for the springtime.

"We welcome anyone who wants to be a part of this group," said Blazer. "We just have one additional requirement—you can't be shy."

Northville High School Choir Christmas Concert is sell-out

Heather Connor
Staff Writer

A sold-out annual holiday concert, presented by the music students at Northville High School, is becoming as much an area tradition as singing Christmas carols. The show is another sellout this year, with 1,000 tickets sold for concerts last night and tonight.

Mary Kay Pryce, director of the vocal music program, said the

program is the largest high school choral program in the state of Michigan, with more than 500 students in 10 ensembles. She said the instrumental program has about 250 students.

Pryce said the holiday concerts appeal to the community in a special way.

"People really like Christmas music. The season is associated with music and they get in the mood," Pryce said. "It (the concert) has been going on for so

many years and it has a big following."

Michael Rumbell, band director, said almost half of the student body participates in the program, with 750 students out of 1,750 this year.

He said the music department has three symphonic bands, two jazz bands and a marching band. Rumbell has worked for the school district 30 years and says he enjoys working with students is a lot of fun and watching the

program grow.

"It's a blast. It's like a Vaudeville act with the spinning plates," Rumbell said. "The plate that starts to wobble is the one you need to pay attention to. There's never a dull moment."

Choir director Mark Krempski said the high school is a wonderful facility that enables the department to have frequent concerts. He said there are many students involved in both band and choir.

"You have a real relationship with these kids as you watch them grow both educationally and musically," Krempski said.

Rumbell said the holiday concert tops off events for the fall semester.

The students are actively involved in concerts, district and state festivals and competitions throughout the school year. Krempski said the school will host a choral festival in the spring.

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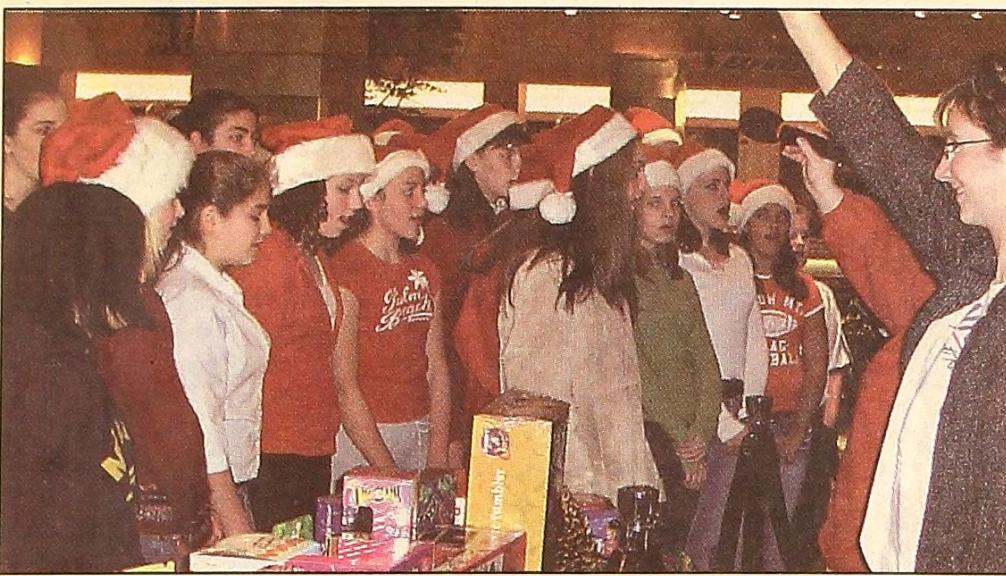
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The Meads Mill Middle School choir serenaded The Breakfast Club radio crew from 100.3, WNIC FM. Dec. 12. Students arrived at 7 a.m. at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi to help the show generate funds for "Toys for Tots."

Student choir makes radio debut

Heather Connor
Staff Writer

Eighth-grade choir students from Meads Mill Middle School in Northville put their act on the airwaves Thursday as they sang to Chuck Gaidica and "The Breakfast Club" during a live broadcast from Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

The morning radio program invited the choir to sing as part of the WNIC FM fundraising drive for the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program. The show visits different communities at area shopping centers.

Sue Meyer, principal of Meads Mill, said the students were very excited about their radio debut.

"It's usually hard to get students to bring in their permission slips for events like these on time," Meyer said. "The slips came rolling in fast for this one."

Choir Director Pat McLaughlin said the

group has performed for the community at different events, but the live broadcast was their first.

"We love for the kids to get the opportunity to develop their performing skills and their ability to give back to the community," McLaughlin said. "Northville is a very special community in that regard, as elementary through high school students are involved in the community."

The choir sang *Deck the Halls* and *Somewhere in My Memory* from the holiday movie *Home Alone*.

Student Laura Keys said the experience was great.

"I've never really done anything like this," she said.

"I really liked it."

Student Megan Haller was selected as group spokesperson in an on-air interview with Gaidica.

"I was nervous. It was exciting and I was glad to get picked," Haller said.

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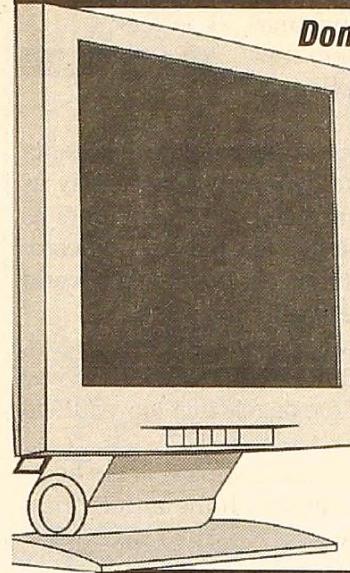
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The wonder of Christmas

I recently spoke with someone who was obviously quite depressed, and as they were sharing with me their list of personal struggles, the conclusion was, "I'm not even the least bit excited about Christmas."

I have to admit, this statement made more of an impression that the other items on the list, even though they were much larger in consequence. NOT BEING EXCITED ABOUT CHRISTMAS? Spock, of the Star Ship Enterprise would respond, "That is not logical." Data would say, "That does not compute." And to be completely honest with you, I don't understand, either.

I have always been captivated by the WONDER of Christmas. I suppose as a child, it was Santa and the anticipated presents that caused me to be so "geeked" by the holiday but now, decades later, there is still something about Christmas that resounds "warm fuzzies" in me. It just has a different "feel" than any other time of the year, even with the commercialism and mass marketing that has become so much a part of the holiday in America.

Although I can't categorize or catalog them as I might like, I'm pretty sure I've retained something inside of each and every Christmas of my life.

I can remember, as a child, getting the sci-fi toys I was so enamored with and then, later, musical instruments that seemed to shape so much of my life.

When I made a decision to become a Christian, the "Reason for the season" both captivated and captured my heart. It was an experience somewhat similar to George Bailey's in *It's A Wonderful Life*. I discovered what had been true all the time but I let my own situations get so close that I didn't see it clearly. I can remember the first Christmas together with my wife, Nancy, and then when the

children came well, let's just say Christmas took on a whole new dimension all over again.

I figured out pretty early on that Santa was a ruse, and I don't care nearly as much about receiving gifts these days as giving them, but the fact that it's a celebration of God sending His Son into the world is a renewable wonder in my life.

Christmas has always been special, unique, and full of well, wonder! It was the wonder of the angels that moved them to glory.

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'" (Luke 2:13-14). I can only imagine what the appearance of the angels must have meant to the shepherds out in the fields. I'm pretty sure they never forgot the experience.

The wonder of the individuals that have been known as the "wise men" over the ages caused them to travel a great distance and give gifts to the Christ child.

I'm certain that special, unique birth not only changed the charter of their course, but the direction of their lives.

In fact, over the countless centuries, everyone who truly has had an encounter with this "Christ of Christmas" has had their lives redirected.

This year, if the wonder of Christmas seems to be missing or a fleeting memory for you, why don't you ask God to restore the wonder. You might start by reading the Christmas story in the Bible; and then by thanking God for His incredible gift, the most priceless one He could give, His very own Son!

That's what makes Christmas a wonder in our lives. I trust you'll have a very, merry one!

Luminaria kits are available

It's not too late to light up the night in time for the holiday season. The Plymouth Symphony League (PSO) and the Trailwood Garden Club will be selling luminaria kits through Dec. 24 at locations around Plymouth.

Luminaria sales are part of the year-round effort to fund operations of the orchestra, and one of three items offered during the holidays.

The \$4 kits include 10 candles and 10 bags. Homeowners often coordinate with one another to create a festive neighborhood atmosphere by lining their streets, sidewalks and footpaths around their homes with the luminaries on weekends

and holiday nights.

Kits are available at Delta Diamond Setters, Saxton's Garden Center and at the PSO office.

The league is also selling the seventh annual limited-edition pewter Christmas ornaments. This year, the ornament depicts the gazebo in Old Village Canon Park.

Ornaments cost \$8 and are available at the PSO office or at Sideways, on Forest Avenue. All proceeds from ornament sales benefit the PSO.

For more information on the kits, ornaments or entertainment books, contact the PSO office at 734-451-2112.

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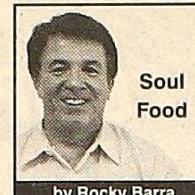
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Westland seniors plan trip to Canada for prescriptions

Scott Spielman
Editor

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said she hopes to follow up on the success of the Canadian Drug Prescription Program that she helped senior citizens take advantage of earlier this year.

In October, a group of Westland senior citizens boarded a bus donated for the day and made the trip across the Detroit River to Canada where, working with a physician and a pharmacy, they purchased many of the prescription drugs that eat away at the fixed monthly incomes of many senior citizens.

"It's been a phenomenal success. We had one senior citizen who saved \$700 on her own," Cicirelli said. "The 35 seniors who took advantage of the program saved about \$7,000 between them. The savings have been enormous."

Cicirelli said she organized the program with the help of a friend, and had an attorney review it. Then she hosted an

informational meeting at the Friendship Center to interest enough seniors to make the program viable. The bus was donated by Blanco so the seniors and the city saved the cost of transportation, too.

"People go over there and do this all the time," she said.

The city is serving as a facilitator and simply arranging for the group to travel together and save together, she said. The program proved so successful and garnered enough requests from seniors that the city is planning another cross-border trip, according to Cicirelli.

The next trip is planned for Jan. 14, 2003, but because of limited space seniors are asked to reserve a spot on the bus. The trip will be open to non-Westland residents on a first-come, first-serve basis as long as seats are available.

The bus will leave at 9:30 in the morning and return in the afternoon, according to Cicirelli.

Anyone interested should contact the Westland Friendship Center:

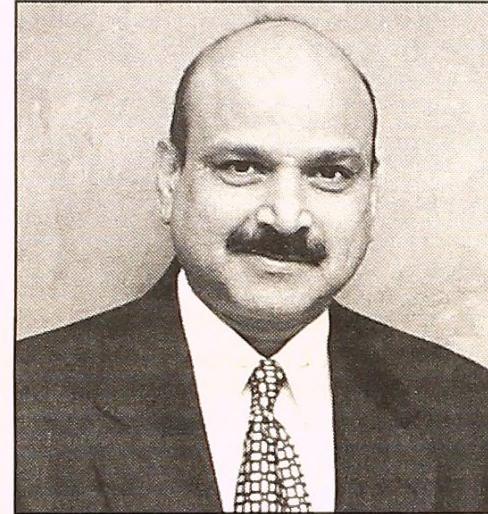
Hospital names vice president

Ash Gokli, M.D. has been named vice president of medical affairs at St. Mary Mercy hospital.

Gokli has been employed by the hospital for more than nine years and has served as chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine since 1997. In addition to creating a center of excellence in emergency medicine, Gokli led an emergency physician group of 30 physicians and other staff at the hospital emergency center.

Gokli, who is board-certified in emergency medicine and internal medicine, served as a full-time teaching faculty at the Department of Emergency Medicine at Henry Ford Hospital and an Association Staff Physician since 1994. He is a Certified Physician Executive by the American College of Physician Executives and a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

"Dr. Gokli has an in-depth knowledge of the health care industry with a strong



Ash Gokli, M.D.

background in quality management, operations, strategic planning, finance and staff management," said David Spivey, president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Hospital. "He is an exceptional addition to our team."

Canton to host musical holiday 'Toys For Tots' benefit show

Jerri Mach
Staff Writer

Teens throughout the community can help tots across the country this month simply by enjoying an afternoon of live music.

Canton Township Leisure Services will host a "Toys for Tots" musical Christmas show Sunday, Dec. 22. The goal of the event, according to Recreation Specialist Jon LaFever, is to help out the U.S. Marine Corps in their national toy drive effort while providing an afternoon of quality entertainment for people of all ages.

"This is similar to some of the other concerts we have offered," LaFever said. "All of the bands will be student bands."

According to LaFever, bands will come from Chicago, New York, Ohio and local communities.

The program was the idea of Novi resident Bryan Beeler. He approached the City of Novi with the idea but was turned down when a space large enough for the event could not be found.

"This young man has really been the driving force behind this effort," said LaFever. "He helped to arrange all the

We make sure that the bands understand that explicit lyrics will not be allowed. The four other times we have had bands play we have not had any problems.

John LaFever

bands and has been a great help."

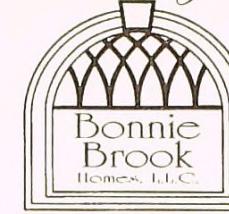
Admission to the event will be one new unwrapped toy or a \$5 cash donation. The music starts at 1 p.m. and the last band will take the stage at 8 p.m. at the Summit on the Park. While tailored for students, the event is open to the whole family.

"We make sure that the bands understand that explicit lyrics will not be allowed," said LaFever. "The four other times we have had bands play we have not had any problems."

For more information about the event call (734) 394-5400.

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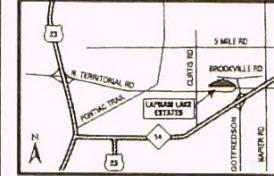
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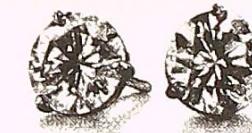
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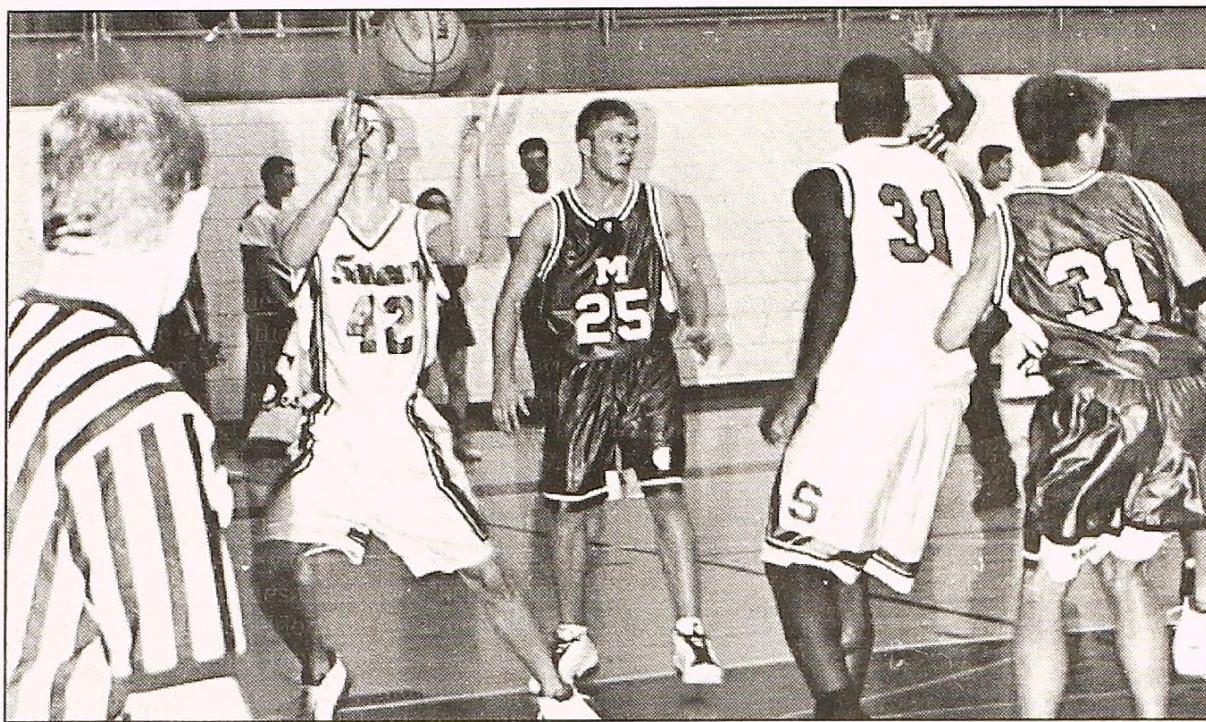
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SPORTS



The Salem Rocks recovered from a tough loss in their season opener to top Monroe, 67-60 Friday night.

Photo by R. Alwood, Jr.

Salem finds mixed success in 1st week

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Salem Rocks men's basketball team had mixed results in the opening week of the 2002-2003 season.

The lost the season opener last Tuesday against Belleville, but were successful in their home opener Friday night against Monroe, according to Salem Coach Bob Brodie.

Monroe 60, Salem 67

The Rocks rebounded from their opening season loss last Tuesday to take a close game from the Monroe Trojans as they opened their campaign at PCEP.

The game was close throughout, but the Salem defense was tough enough to eek out the victory, according to Brodie.

"We led the majority of the game," he said.

The Rocks took the lead in

the first quarter, scoring 18 points and allowing only 13. Monroe mounted a slight comeback in the second frame, however, when they went on a 20-16 run and narrowed the lead to a single point, 34-33 at half time.

It looked like the Rocks would pull away in the third quarter when they expanded their lead to 10 points, but the plucky

See Hoops, page 15

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Mustangs start season with 2 solid home wins

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Northville Mustangs basketball squad got off to a good start in the 2002-2003 campaign.

They opened the season with two solid wins, according to Coach Darrel Schumacher.

Tuesday, they hosted the South Lyon Lions in the season opener and followed a well-balanced attack to a 72-57 victory.

"We had a pretty good game for our first outing," said Schumacher. "Of course, there are always things we can work on."

He said the Mustangs got off to a lackadaisical start, but by the end of the first quarter, they had erased all hint of it. They put up 21 points in the first, and allowed only 10 to set the tone for the game.

The scored 18 in the second and allowed only 10 to take a 15-point lead into the half.

"We played a pretty good defensive game," Schumacher said.

They put up another 18

points in the third quarter and held the Lions to 15 points to take a 57-39 lead into the final frame. They continued their pace and earned the relatively easy win, Schumacher said.

Scott McNeish led the Mustangs with 19 points and 10 rebounds on the night. Adam Konst put up 16 points. Roger Garfield was strong in a supporting role - he had 11 points and six assists on the night.

"He did a nice job of getting the ball to other people," Schumacher said. "He was instrumental in that game."

Hartland 20, Northville 57

Friday, it was Hartland that got off to a slow start against the Mustangs. Northville held the Eagles to only eight points in the first half.

"We were able to lay pretty good offense, too," he said. "We were pretty much on a roll."

With such a strong start, the outcome of the game wasn't much in doubt, according to Schumacher.

McNeish had 16 points and

See Mustangs, page 15

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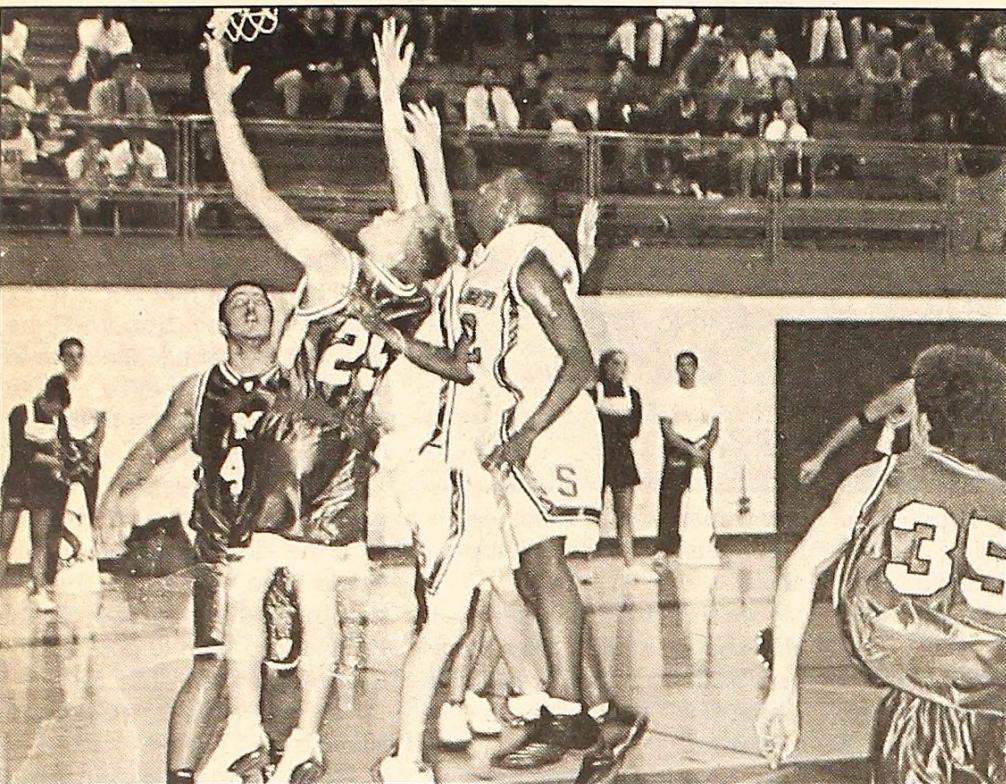
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Brad Clark and Dave Hoskins led the Rocks in their victory Friday, combining for 42 points. Salem is on the road until Jan. 3, when they host Grosse Pointe South. Photo by R. Alwood, Jr.

Hoops - Salem hopes to contend, again

FROM PAGE 14

Trojans battled back and at the end of the third it was still a one point game, 46-45, in the Rocks' favor, Brodie said.

"We just started taking the ball inside," he said.

Kevin Savitskie came up big for the Rocks in the fourth frame. He scored all seven of his points in the final quarter to help the Rocks edge away from the Trojans. They put up 21 points in the fourth, and allowed only 15 to get their first victory of the year.

Brad Clark led the Rocks with 22 points and Dave Hoskins put up 20. Dominique Washington contributed 10 points in the win.

Salem 58, Belleville 84

The Belleville Tigers led the Rocks from start to finish as they peppered the net with guided missiles shaped like basketballs.

"The closest we got was 10 points," said Brodie.

Mustangs - Northville wants to keep momentum

FROM PAGE 14

16 rebounds on the night. Konst had 15 points and four assists. An all-division player last year, Schumacher said he's played a supporting role so far, giving the ball out to his teammates.

"That shows that he's becoming an all-around player," Schumacher said.

Jeff Varley contributed 11 points from the bench and Garfield had four more

The Tigers were on fire throughout most of the game, he said. They shot 60 percent from the floor.

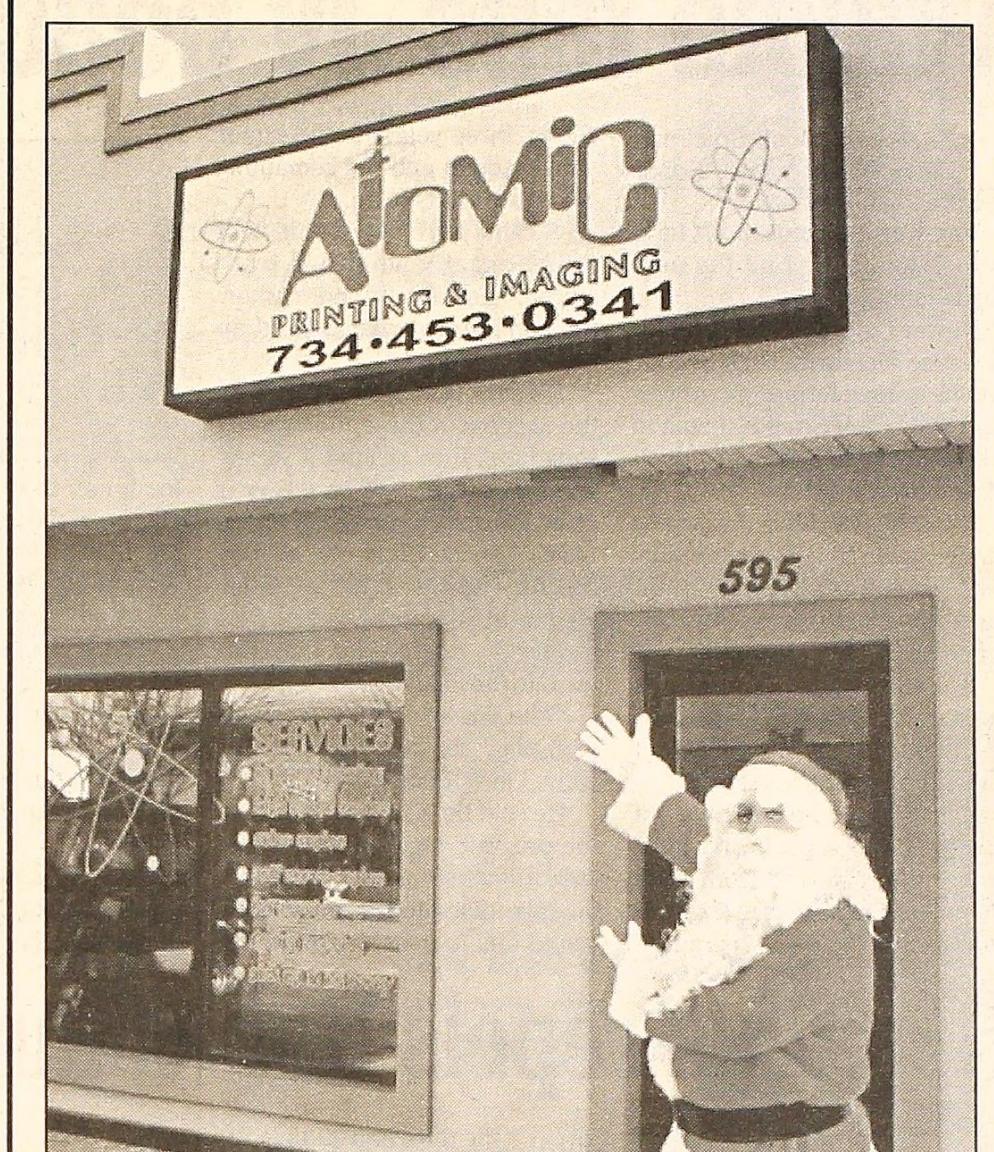
"They shot the ball extremely well," Brodie said. "They're a good ball club. Anytime you give up 81 points, you know you're playing a top team."

Dave Hoskins put up 22 points in the effort and Stevland Davis contributed 11.

The Rocks are looking for a solid year this year, with four of five starters back from a team that went 13-8 last year and won their conference. They were one of four tied for the division lead, too. Brodie said he was cautiously optimistic about their chances this season.

"The jury's still out," he said. "When we're clicking on all cylinders, we can be pretty tough."

The Rocks travel to Wayne Memorial tonight to take on the Eagles, who are new to the conference. They travel to Allen Park next week and play in the Christmas tournament there. Their next home game is at 7 p.m. on Jan 3 against Grosse Pointe South.



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Wayne taps JV coach to fill varsity spot

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Wayne Zebras didn't have to look too far to find the next head football coach.

Dewie Cole, athletic director at Wayne Memorial High School, said he tapped former junior varsity head coach Craig Hanatuk to take over where former coach Floyd Carter left off.

Hanatuk, who led the junior varsity squad to a 7-2 season this year, was a long-time assistant varsity coach at John Glenn High School.

"He knows our kids, and he's worked with our kids," said Cole. "It fits in with our philosophy of students first, athletes second."

Hanatuk said he had hopes of snagging the top varsity spot when he transferred from John Glenn two years ago. He spent 17 years in the football program at

Glenn, three years on the junior varsity squad and the remaining 14 on the varsity team.

"I came here with the idea of doing exactly what has transpired," he said. "I had to show the community what I could do first."

He said he hopes to build on the success of the junior varsity squad and turn around a varsity team that went 1-11 on the year after joining the tough Western Lakes district. He knows he'll be coaching against tough programs like John Glenn, Canton and Stevenson, but said he looks forward to the challenges ahead.

"The Western Lakes is where men play," he said. "This is all I know. I look forward to it."

He said he would start putting the program together this week, with a football meeting that was to take place today. He said he would talk to everyone from the

The key is just not a work ethic, but education, too. These young men have to understand that they're here to get an education. I'm a teacher first, a coach second.

Craig Hanatuk

freshmen to varsity hopefuls to give them the underlying philosophy that he hopes will guide the team when they take the field next year.

He's already started to build up their strength and endurance, working out with the students during open gym time, and will have the weight room open from 12-2 even during the Christmas holidays.

That may seem early to start preparing for a football season that doesn't start for nine months,

but Hanatuk said other established teams are already further along.

"We're behind the eight ball already," he said. "Other teams have been playing as a team for a while, now. That's why they're successful."

But working out and getting ready for the football techniques class that starts in February is only a part of getting ready for the field, he said. He said he understands the emphasis on educational achievement, as

well, and he wants to get that message across, too. Hanatuk teaches social sciences to ninth graders and juniors.

"The key is just not a work ethic, but education, too," he said. "These young men have to understand that they're here to get an education. I'm a teacher first, a coach second."

He said that even with a firm plan in place and his background with the kids, success probably wouldn't be immediate. It takes time to build a winning program, he said, and time to put his philosophy into play.

"Come August, we'll be a sound team," he said.

Cole said he believed Hanatuk would have a positive impact on the future of the squad.

"It's a good choice," Cole said. "He comes from a winning tradition."

Romulus repels Robichaud in basketball 'squeaker'

Scott Spielman
Editor

It's a new season and a new coach for the Romulus Eagles men's basketball squad.

Nate Oats, who took over the program this year, said he already likes what he sees with the Eagles' squad.

"They've got pretty good talent here," he said.

Oats comes to the Romulus School District from Wisconsin, where he was an assistant coach at the University of Wisconsin in Whitewater.

The Eagles have played two games so far in the young season, and split them for a 1-1 record.

Wayne 70, Romulus 52

They opened the season at home last Tuesday and fell to the Wayne Memorial Zebras. Oats said that a number of second half turnovers cost the Eagles the game. They gave up the ball 24 times overall.

"That gave them a lot of free points," he said.

The Eagles took a slight early lead in the first quarter, 15-14. Both teams traded baskets in the second period and Wayne kept a one-point lead at halftime, 26-25.

The Zebras came on strong in the second half, though, and gradually pulled away. They outscored Romulus 25-11 in

the third and 20-15 in the fourth.

Ronald Coleman led the Eagles with 23 points and 10 rebounds on the night. Tylon Pitts contributed seven points.

For Wayne it was T. J. McLain with 21 points and Jenois Safford with 10.

Robichaud 56, Romulus 53

The Eagles fended off a Robichaud rally to earn their first victory of the season Friday night.

"We probably should have one by more," said Oats, whose team was victimized by poor shooting.

The Eagles scored the first 10 points of the game on their way to a 16-9 lead at the end of the first quarter. They padded the lead to 30-21 at half time, but Robichaud mounted a rally after that.

They trimmed a point off the lead in the third, and another five from in the fourth quarter.

As time on the clock quickly leaked away, the Eagles were only up by one, and Robichaud drove toward the basket. One of the players called a timeout that the team didn't have, though, and they were called for a technical foul.

Romulus had a chance for two free throws, and Ron Buckley went to the line and iced them both.

"They were all net, too," Oats said. "He just stepped up and drilled them both."

The defense held and the Eagles pulled

out a victory.

"It wasn't a pretty game for us, but we were glad to get the win," Oats said. "We didn't play that well in the second half."

Coleman led the Eagles with 10 points and 11 rebounds on the night. Buckley put up 15 points and Pitts contributed eight.

Oats, who was hired to the job at the end of May, didn't move to the community until July. He also teaches math at the high school.

"It's better to teach with the district you coach in because you can help keep an eye on the kids," he said.

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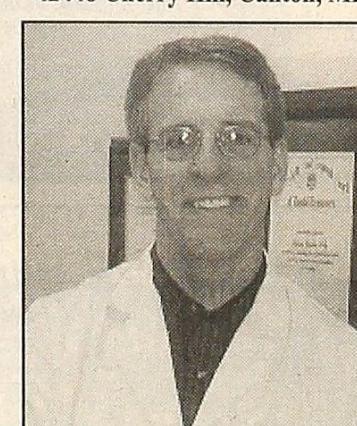
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Canton coach wins 100th match at Allen Park Tourney

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Canton Chiefs opened the 2002-2003 volleyball season Saturday at Allen Park and just missed winning the tournament title, according to Coach Steve Anderson.

The Chiefs played well through an exhausting day, Anderson said. The final competition, when the Chiefs faced Jackson High School, was 13 hours after the Chiefs served the first ball.

"We played rather well considering it was the first day of the season," he said. "The seniors played above expectations. We have seen our strengths and weaknesses during the long day and we will begin fine-tuning the offense during the next week."

The Chiefs won the first game of the finals, 15-13, but dropped the second, 3-15. They were down by five in the tie-breaker and rallied to go up, 14-11 but ended up losing, 14-16, according to Anderson.

They were led by Cindy Rotramel, Kristen Lake and Colleen O'Brien as well as junior setter Kristen Lillie. Rotramel had 42 kills, 64 digs and 17 aces. She served .915 on the day. Lake had 29 kills, seven blocks and 31 digs. O'Brien had 38 digs. Lillie put up 96 assists for a .287 assist percentage and had 10 kills on 27 attempts.

The ended up 4-1 on the day with a 10-

3 game record for the tournament. On the way they defeated Livonia Stevenson, 15-7, 15-10, Melvindale 15-6, 15-3 and Westland Lutheran, 15-13, 15-6. They topped Marshall, 15-13, 16-14 in the semifinal game.

"I feel that the pool schedule played to the advantage for Jackson in the finals," said Anderson. "They did a lot more resting and watching late in pool play as opposed to the other three teams in the semi's. After 13 hours of tournament play and a tougher road to the finals, we just ran out of gas and some players started to cramp up. All these factors make a world of difference when it comes to rally scoring in the third and final game of the tournament.

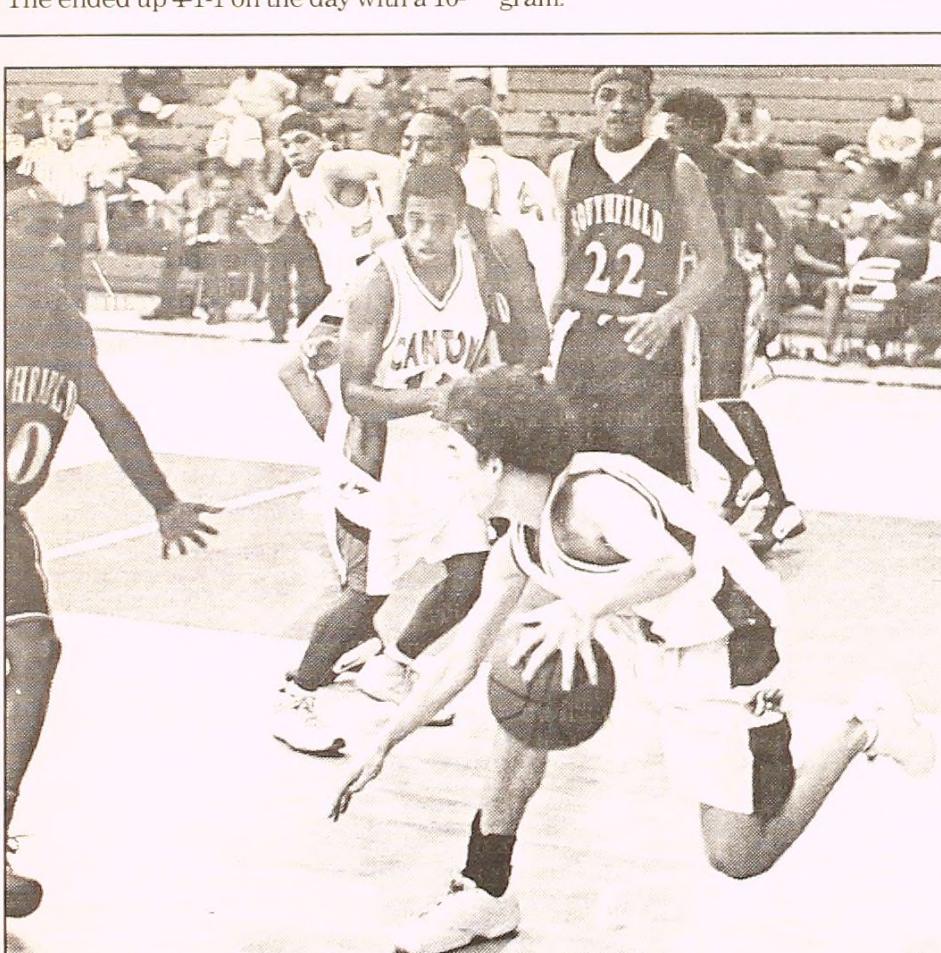
"I'm very proud of the players," he added. "They showed a lot of guts and gave us a great start to the young season."

The tournament also gave Anderson his 100th victory as a coach in only four years and one day heading the program.

The win came on the third match of the tournament when the Chiefs topped Westland Lutheran.

"Any coach in touch with reality will tell you that they are only as good as the players on the team," Anderson said.

"This mark is a reflection of the hard work put forth by the players on the Canton program during the past four seasons. I am very proud of the entire program."



Canton Crunch

The Canton Chiefs improved steadily during their first week of play, building to a victory Friday night over visiting Southfield, 35-34. The Chiefs were down for most of the game but fought back steadily, tying the game on a 3-point shot from Matt Payne. Photo by R. Alwood, Jr.

Northville wrestlers seek consistency

Scott Spielman
Editor

It's been a rough season so far for the Northville Mustang wrestling squad, and it didn't get much better at the Davison Invitational this weekend.

The Mustangs went 0-3 on the day, but Coach Joel Smith said he saw plenty of signs of improvement from his young squad.

The Mustangs tangled with 14 other wrestlers Saturday, and 12 of them were

ranked in the state.

"The kids, as a whole, wrestled fantastically against that type of competition," Smith said. "That's some of the best competition in the state."

The Mustangs are 1-8 so far in dual meets, but Smith said he isn't too concerned with the win-loss ratio so far. He's in his second year as wrestling coach for Northville.

"We're more concerned with growth as

See Wrestle, page 18

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John Glenn opens men's basketball season with win

Scott Spielman
Editor

The John Glenn Rockets opened the men's basketball season on a high note Friday when they beat visiting Ann Arbor Huron 65-43 in front of an energetic crowd.

The Rockets were certainly ready to play, but that can be understandable considering tryouts were nearly a month ago, and the team has had plenty of time to concentrate on the fundamentals of the game, according to Coach Joel Lloyd.

"It was a good opening game for us," he

"It seemed like we had been practicing forever. We kids were ready to play."

said. "It seemed like we had been practicing forever. We kids were ready to play."

Glenn scored the first six points in the game and held off the well-balanced Huron attack. They led 17-9 at the end of the first and 34-17 at half time.

The defense came on strong in the sec-

ond half, and the offense helped with a 7-0 run in the beginning of the third quarter to put some distance between the Rockets and the Huron.

De'Anthony Granberry had 14 on the night and Jerret Smith added 12 points. Darnell Wilson contributed 10 points.

Lloyd said the team should be very competitive this year. They're returning all five starters who finished the season last year on a team that went 15-7 and tied three other clubs for the division lead.

Granberry, a 6' junior guard, along with Smith, a 6' 2" senior guard, Allen Barker, a 5' 8" senior guard and the two Darnells - 6'

6" Wilson and 6' 3" Smith, both forwards will make up the starting core for the Rockets.

"I think they've got some good experience under their belt," Lloyd said. "It's going to be a tough league this year."

The Rockets hosted Ypsilanti High School Tuesday night, but the outcome of that game wasn't known at press time. They travel to Willow Run tonight and take part in the River Rouge tournament next Thursday and Friday.

Their next home game is after the New Year, when they host Walled Lake Central on Jan. 7.

Wrestle - Northville hopes to improve

FROM PAGE 17

a team this year," he said. "In every meet so far, this team is getting better. At the end of the year our team will be a better team."

The Mustangs returned several wrestlers from last year's squad, including Adam Blunk, Joel Schanne, Mike Carter, Josh D'Anna, Rich Riegner, Steve Minier, Dave Quick, Steve Cane and Bill Riegner.

"They're all improved tremendously over the summer," he said. "We see it on the mat."

The Mustangs hosted the Canton Chiefs last night, and Smith said he expected a tough effort from the perennial wrestling powerhouse.

"It'll be a nice dual meet for us," he said Monday. The outcome of the match wasn't known at press time.

He said the Mustangs have faced some of their toughest competition already this season and praised the efforts of the team, who hasn't let the lack of success dampen their spirits.

"They're working hard," he said. "They're getting a lot better."

"It's tough to get your system rolling," he added.

"To get it going, even in two years, is pretty tough."

The Mustangs travel to Salem next Friday. Their next home match isn't until Jan. 16, when they host the Rocks.

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The following Charter Township of Northville Administrative Offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25, 2002 in observance of Christmas.

The offices will re-open on Thursday, December 26, 2002 at 8:00 a.m.

The Northville Township Administrative Offices will also be closed on Wednesday, January 01, 2003 in observance of New Years Day.

The offices will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 02, 2003.

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Township Public Services/Water & Sewer	16225 Beck Road

Residents wishing to pay their taxes before year-end can do so up until closing at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2002

The Department of Public Safety and the Fire Department will remain open.

Sue A. Hillebrand,
Township Clerk

Publish: December 19, 2002

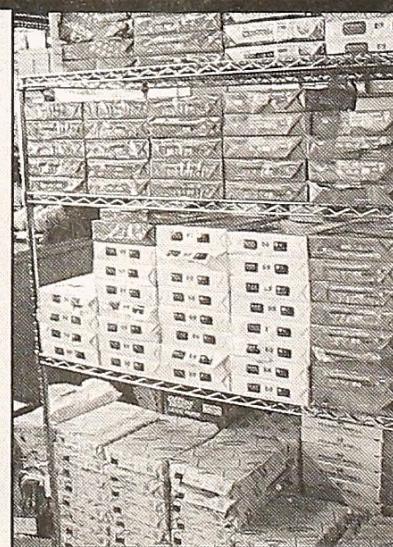
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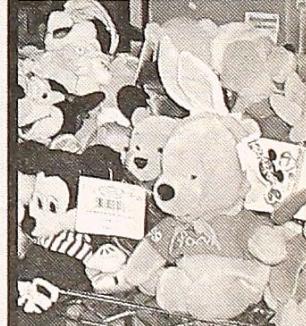
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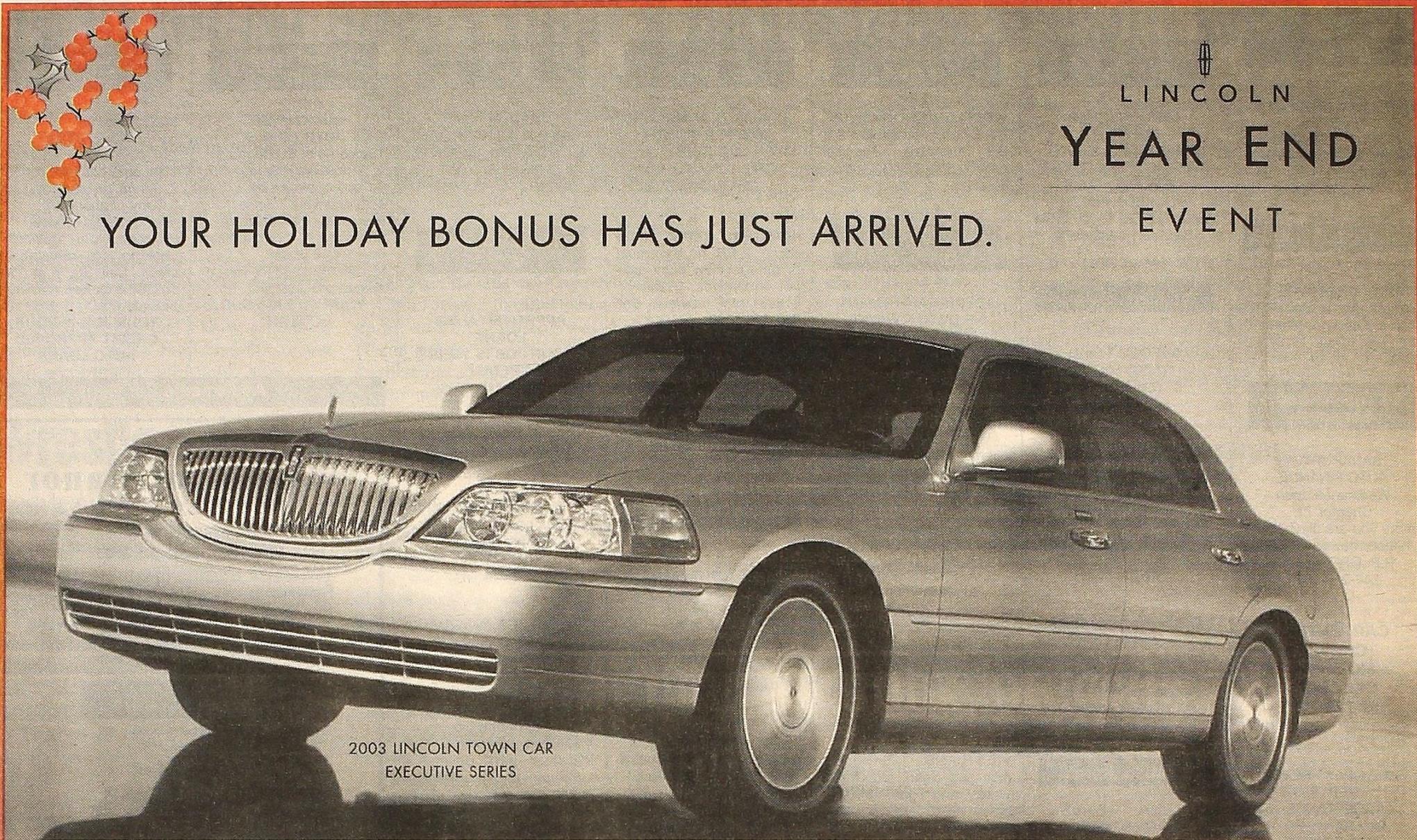
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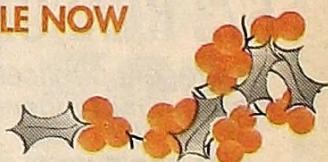
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